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JUNE MEETING, 1879.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 12th instant, at 11 o'clock A.M.; the President, Mr. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the last meeting, and it was approved.

The Librarian, Dr. GREEN, in reporting the gifts to the Library, made special mention of "The Whitney Family of Connecticut." This elaborate account of the descendants of Henry Whitney of Norwalk, of which a limited edition (500 copies 4to, 10 folio) in three large and elegant volumes is printed for presentation only, is one of the most complete and expensive works of the kind ever published. It was given by the compiler, Mr. S. Whitney Phoenix of New York.

Dr. GREEN reported also that the city clerk of Boston had requested that the records of the New North Church, an extinct religious corporation, be delivered to him in accordance with the provisions of the statute of the Commonwealth. The city intends to publish at least a portion of these records, and the Society voted to transfer them to the custody of Mr. McCleary.

The Corresponding Secretary announced that Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., had accepted his election as a Resident Member, and was present at this meeting. He read also letters accepting Corresponding Membership from Professor Franklin B. Dexter of Yale College, and General John M. Brown of Portland.

The Cabinet-keeper reported that a catalogue of the paintings and engravings in the Society's possession had been made by Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, the assistant in the Library, and suggested that after being examined and corrected by the Committee on the Cabinet, it might perhaps be printed in the Proceedings.

The President then called attention to a collection of autographs, saying:—

On our table this morning, Gentlemen, there are five large volumes, and two or three smaller parcels, of interesting and valuable autographs. They are a collection made by Mrs. Frances Maria Winthrop, the widow of my elder brother, Grenville Temple Winthrop, and a daughter of the late Hon.

John Heard, for many years Judge of Probate for Suffolk County. Mrs. Winthrop died during the past year at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, where she had resided, as an invalid, with her only son, Thomas Lindall Winthrop, for many years past. She had occupied and amused herself, while she was able to do so, in procuring and arranging these autographs, and had enjoyed some peculiar opportunities of obtaining not a few which were out of the common road or reach of collectors. It happened that during the earlier part of her residence in the Isle of Wight, at Cowes, not far from Osborne, she had the same physician who was in attendance on the young Prince Leopold. The prince being desirous to obtain some American autographs for his own collection, many exchanges were made between him and Mrs. Winthrop through the intervention of their common physician. In this and other ways, a large number of foreign autographs were contributed to the collection on the table, ancient as well as modern, from Royal and Imperial personages, as well as from distinguished statesmen and authors. A large part of them are not mere signatures, but letters and documents of literary and historical interest, and in most cases there is a portrait, engraved or photographed, of the writer.

Mrs. Winthrop expressed a wish, not long before her death, that the collection should find a permanent place in the Library of this Society; and her son, Mr. Thomas Lindall Winthrop, has sent it over from England, to be presented to us in the name of himself and his sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Temple Hooker, and Mrs. Susan Heard Swett of this city. They have requested that it should be known and marked as the collection of their mother, Mrs. Grenville Temple Winthrop.

As the collection requires to be examined and arranged with a view to permanent security and to occasional exhibition hereafter, I venture to propose that Judge Chamberlain and Mr. Waterston, who are well known as experts, with Dr. Green, the Librarian, and Mr. Appleton, the Cabinet-keeper, be a Committee with full powers to do all that may be necessary or desirable in the premises.

Mr. DEANE moved the following votes, which were unanimously adopted :—

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Historical Society return their grateful acknowledgments to Thomas Lindall Winthrop, Esq., and to his sisters, Mrs. Hooker and Mrs. Swett, for

the interesting and valuable collection of autographs made by their mother while an invalid abroad, and presented by them agreeably to her expressed wish.

Resolved, That the autographs be kept together, and that they be marked and known as the collection of Mrs. Grenville Temple Winthrop.

As proposed by the President, Judge Chamberlain, the Rev. Mr. Waterston, the Librarian and the Cabinet-keeper were appointed a Committee to examine and arrange these autographs. It was suggested and understood also, that the same Committee should prepare an account of the collection for the Society's Proceedings.

The President continued:—

I have brought here for exhibition this morning a gold medal which has recently been sent to me from France through the Department of State. It was awarded at the late International or Universal Exposition at Paris to the Peabody Foundation for Education in the Southern States, and was transmitted to my care as Chairman of the Trustees, by General McCormick, U. S. Commissioner General. As I shall have no opportunity of communicating it to the Trustees, until their next Annual Meeting at New York in October, and as it is a fresh tribute to the memory of a munificent son of Massachusetts, a benefactor, as well as an Honorary Member, of this Society,—I have thought that, for fear of any such accident as sometimes befalls things made of gold, it might fitly be exhibited here to-day, and find a place on the record of our proceedings.

It is exactly two inches in diameter, and rather more than one eighth of an inch in thickness at the edge. On the face, or obverse, it has a pleasing head of Liberty, with a star over it, and with the legend “République Française.” On the reverse there seems to be a winged figure of Fame, with a laurel wreath in the right hand, and an uplifted trumpet in the left, sending forth a winged messenger who bears a tablet inscribed “Fondation Peabody pour l'instruction dans les États du Sud.” Around the rim, on this side, the legend is “Exposition Universelle Internationale de 1878,” and at the bottom, in larger letters, “Paris.” The maker's name is on both sides: “J. C. Chaplain” on the face, and “Chaplain” on the reverse.

It is contained in a red morocco case lined with velvet, and was accompanied by a Diploma setting forth the award of the Medal, signed by the French Commissary General,

and by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The Illustrations on this Diploma present Labor and Peace joining hands, with the motto "Innixa · Paci · Gallia · Fovet · Artes." The columns which support the entablature present the Sciences on one side, with the motto, "Lumina Numina Nostra"; and the Fine Arts on the other side, with the motto "Ars Superat et Superest";—"Veritas," being on the banner of the Sciences, and "Forma" on that of the Fine Arts. One might almost describe the illustrations, which are thoroughly French, as a sort of parody of a text of the Psalmist, and as saying, "Beauty and Truth have met together; Labor and Peace have kissed each other."

Mr. FRANCIS PARKMAN presented (a gift from Edward Wheelwright, Esq.) a collection of plans and drawings of the Old South Church, and read the following letter to explain Mr. Wheelwright's object in having these plans prepared.

BOSTON, May 21, 1879.

MY DEAR PARKMAN,—I send you herewith, as we agreed, the portfolio of drawings of the Old South which you have kindly undertaken to present in my name to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The drawings, seven in number, were executed for me by Messrs. Ware and Van Brunt at a time when there seemed no possibility of saving the building,—when, in fact, the work of destruction had actually begun. They were made from careful measurements, and were intended to preserve the memory of the historic edifice in all its details, in the only way that then seemed practicable. It was designed to have them so full and complete that the building might at any time be reconstructed from them, or a perfect model of it made on a reduced scale.

It is possible that the present effort to preserve the Old South may be finally abandoned. These drawings will then have a value which so long as the building stands they may not seem to possess. As an evidence of the amount of careful work expended upon them, I may mention that I paid two hundred and fifty dollars for having them made.

I have placed also in the portfolio a copy of the "American Architect and Building News" of October 7, 1876, containing a view of the interior, restored, and a page of illustrations of the framing of the roof, and also an article on the latter subject.

Very truly yours,
EDWARD WHEELWRIGHT.

FRANCIS PARKMAN, Esq.

At the Rooms of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Henry Williamson Haynes, Esq., of Boston, was elected a Resident Member. This election completed once more the full roll of one hundred members.

Mr. CHARLES W. TUTTLE, from the Committee appointed in December last to consider a circular letter, received from the Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, on the importance of restoring and preserving the ancient names of places, submitted the following report:—

The Committee appointed to consider the letter of the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States regarding geographical nomenclature, and to advise what action the Society should take thereon, beg leave to report:—

That a fixed and proper geographical nomenclature is a subject of deep public concern, and worthy of the consideration of this Society; that the ancient geographical names in Massachusetts ought to be rigidly adhered to, and preserved both in orthography and original application; that capricious and arbitrary changes of these venerable names should be discouraged and prevented as far as possible; and that this Society may well co-operate with the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States in the reform proposed in the letter of the Superintendent.

Information on this subject is, however, for obvious reasons, confined to those dwelling in or near localities having, or deserving to have, geographical names. No committee, much less any single member of the Society could possibly contribute much general knowledge on so large a subject; and yet there are, probably, few if any members who could not, on examining a map of the locality where they were born or where they reside, give some information both curious and valuable as to local and traditional names. This is the information now called for, and that can be furnished only through the assistance of many persons.

The Committee would therefore recommend that the members of this Society generally be requested to examine any charts or maps of Massachusetts which may be submitted by the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and acquaint the Superintendent what errors or omissions they may find respecting geographical names in Massachusetts.

CHARLES W. TUTTLE.
SAMUEL A. GREEN.
C. F. ADAMS, JR.

The report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Mr. TUTTLE read also the following communication on the supposed massacre by Indians at Fox Point, near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1690.

I fear that I have too long delayed to make public that, while examining the early records of New Hampshire, both printed and manuscript, several years ago, I most unexpectedly discovered substantial grounds for doubting the destruc-

tion of Fox Point by a party of Indians in May, 1690, as alleged by Cotton Mather in his "Magnalia."* Mather says: —

"But the Arrival of *Orders* and *Soldiers* from the Government stopt them from retiring any further; and *Hope-Hood*, with a Party that staid for further Mischief meeting with some resistence here, turn'd about and having first had a Skirmish with Captain *Sherborn*, they appear'd the next Lord's-Day at *Newichawannick* or *Berwick*, where they Burnt some Houses, and Slew a Man. Three Days after they came upon a small Hamlet on the South side of *Piscataqua River*, called *Fox Point*, and besides the Burning of several Houses, they took half a Dozen and killed more than a Dozen of the too Securely Ungarrisoned People; which it was as easie to do as to have Spoiled an ordinary *Hen-Roost*."†

For nearly two centuries this account of the massacre has circulated in our histories, unchallenged in any respect, and always on the authority of Mather. My inquiries led me to look for the names of the slain in this alleged massacre, not doubting but that I should find some, if not all. After much research, covering a period of many years, I have not discovered any thing whatever relating to this tragedy, beyond what is contained in the following letter written in the night by William Vaughan at Portsmouth, and despatched to Governor Bradstreet and the Council in Boston.

PORTS[†]: 28th May 1690, ten at night.‡

MUCH HONRD: I have Soe long & often Informed of the approach of y^e Enemy & Danger to wth wee are expos'd for want of releif that am not like to be in a Capacity much longer to doe it. Cap^t Gerrish, Heard, & Cap^t Woodman the Frontier Garrisons of Cochecha & Oyster river have Stood their ground wth longing Expectation of helpe but none Appearing Cap^t Woodman was forc'd to break up Yesterday & forthwth the enemy came down that way & by Canooes pass't over the river to our Side & this afternoon have been killing burning & Destroying within 3 or 4 miles of Strawberry bank. Bloody Point & the houses above & below are all burnt & the people most destroyed: One that Escap'd out of a house after it was burning saw 8 or 9 dead belonging to that familie, & the Succour we Sent to Weles for that Exigents has render'd us uncapable of relieving o^r Neighbours or defending o^rselves.

* Fox Point is the northwest angle of Newington where Little Bay and the Pascataqua River join. It is about half a mile long, ending in the river and forming a prominent headland on that side of the river and bay. Tradition says the name originated from the use formerly made of this point to snare foxes. Reynard, being once driven there, could not escape his pursuers without swimming the river or bay, much too wide for his cunning.

† Magnalia, Book VII. Art. IX. page 73. London Ed. 1702.

‡ Massachusetts Archives, vol. xxxvi. p. 87.

Want of Assistance will make all o^r Neighbours round us run away & Portsm^o will quickly follow their Example unlesse pres^{nt} Supply of men, provision & Ammunition be Sent to encourage their Standing.

As for that 120 men you were pleased to Advise mee were coming this way understand they are wholly order'd to y^e Province of Main & not a man to our Province who are not lesse Expos'd to the enemy than they, but neither those 120 men nor Cap^t Wiswall (wh^{ch} you have Soe often Advis'd off) have appeared to this day as I can hear, Save onley about 20 or 30 men that pass'd the great Iland this morning into the Province of Main.

The Ind^{rs} left Nechowonuck after having Dangerously wounded one man burn'd Sundry houses &c, Suppose they are the Same now upon us whose attempt is bold & Daring & wee not able to oppose itt. I can doe noe more than give Acc^{ts} hereof & Soe leave it. Remaining Much Honrd,

Yo^r Most humble Ser^t

W^m VAUGHAN.*

All the evidence of this alleged massacre that I can find is contained in this letter and in Mather's narrative quoted above. The letter was preserved in the public archives when Mather wrote in the year 1698. It seems likely that he obtained the substance of his information from it, notwithstanding he is more circumstantial in some matters, and limits the extent of the destruction of life and property. Both agree that the date of the event was May 28, 1690.† Vaughan undoubtedly wrote in some haste, under much excitement, and with no better information than what could be gathered from the flying reports on the tongues of an alarmed people around him. The expectation of an attack prepared him to receive such intelligence, and to communicate it forthwith to the chiefs of the government of Massachusetts, under whose jurisdiction the Province of New Hampshire had again been placed a few months before. According to this letter it was believed in Portsmouth that the whole collection of houses and nearly all the inhabitants were destroyed, a calamity too dreadful ever to be forgotten.

The settlement alleged to have been ravaged was an ancient one, stretching along the south side of the river from Fox Point to Bloody Point and beyond.‡ Many of the inhabitants

* William Vaughan was a rich and prominent merchant in Portsmouth, and had been a member of the provincial council of President Cutt and Lieut.-Governor Cranfield.

† Dr. Belknap says, "Sometime in May": Farmer places this event after August 22, 1690. So little was known of it among the best-informed writers in former times. Farmer's Belknap, pp. 133, 144.

‡ All that territory now forming the northern half of Newington, bounded northerly and easterly on the Pascataqua river, was within the limits of Dover

were leading citizens of Dover, and their posterity are there to this day. The public road to Bloody Point ferry passed through it, making it known to travellers, by whom it is not unfrequently mentioned in ancient records. The settlements of Oyster River, Dover Neck, and Strawberry Bank, now Portsmouth, lie around it, only a few miles distant. Mather speaks of the comparative security of its position.

Only a week before this alleged massacre a force composed of French and Indians had utterly destroyed Casco, now Portland. A party of the Indians concerned in that affair was reported to be advancing toward the Pascataqua settlements, killing and destroying on their way. Hundreds of persons had fled from the east into Portsmouth.* The inhabitants of that whole region, remembering the dreadful fate of Cochecho, and the still more recent one of Salmon Falls, were terrified, and put themselves in the best state of defence they could, carefully watching the approach of the Indians. In such an excited state of the public mind, a rumor easily started and soon became reported as a fact.

No one acquainted with the Indian mode of attacking settlements will readily believe the statement in the letter that this massacre took place in the afternoon; for the inhabitants were at such a time not only prepared to defend themselves, but to spread an alarm to other places, so as to cut off the escape of the Indians, then in the heart of the English settlements. The smoke of burning buildings would instantly spread information of the presence of the Indians to the neighboring settlements. There is hardly an instance recorded in the history of Indian warfare in New England where such attacks were not made in the morning, at daybreak or just before, taking the inhabitants by surprise and when least able to resist and give an alarm.

The leading if not the sole object of the Indians in these attacks was to secure captives for the ransom to be had for surrendering them to their friends, and to seize and carry away as much plunder as they could with convenience and safety. Any frontier settlement contained all they desired, besides affording them great advantages of attack, and also

till 1714, and was generally known by the sanguinary name, "Bloody Point." The inhabitants, however, even to this day, restrict the application of this name to that part of it along the river opposite Hilton's Point, now called, very improperly, Dover Point, more than a mile south easterly of Fox Point. The historian, Hubbard, says that this "formidable name of Bloody Point" came from an occurrence there as early as 1633. It is certain that it has been in use there ever since. 2 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. v. p. 217.

* Massachusetts Archives, vol. xxxvi. p. 77.

of escape. In executing their wicked design they killed only such English as actually opposed them. But according to this letter the Indians, in this instance, took an entirely different course from what they ever did before or since. They passed a frontier settlement whose garrison they knew had withdrawn, crossed a broad river or bay with houses along the shores, and in the daytime destroyed an old settlement, and massacred the inhabitants with whom it does not appear they ever had the least difference.

Mather's account is brief and in general terms, too much so to have a real transaction for a basis. He does not give the name of a captive, or the name of one of the slain, nor mention the age and sex. Neither does he give the number slain. That he made Fox Point the scene of the massacre may be owing to his ignorance of the extent of the application of the local names in that region. Vaughan, who was well acquainted there, says that "Bloody Point and the houses above and below" were destroyed. This would include Fox Point.

It seems impossible that a tragedy of this magnitude should have happened, then and there, without leaving in the records of the time more direct evidence than a mere rumor; for such the statement in this letter must be regarded. It is hardly possible that a family of eight or nine persons should be slain, and the name not preserved. So memorable an event ought to be found among the oral traditions of the present inhabitants of that region, many of whom are descended from the slain or their kindred, if the report be true.

I made inquiries for records and oral traditions of this alleged massacre, and others did for me, of persons now living at Fox Point and the region around, without finding either. There is a belief among them that it actually occurred, because, as many said, it is related by historians, and the region has been known ever since as "Bloody Point"! No one there could give, or ever remembered to have heard, the name of any person slain or made captive; nor had they ever heard that any of their ancestors or kindred were among the slain or captive.

It is fair to presume that Dr. Belknap, who lived many years near the site of the alleged massacre, and only three quarters of a century after it is said to have occurred, never found any evidence of it during his extensive historical researches, since he relates the affair wholly on authority of Mather. Other historians before and since Belknap have related the story always on authority of Mather. Some have

indulged in a little variation as to the sex and number killed, Mather having said nothing as to the former, and left the whole number killed indefinite, showing how slender his information must have been on these points.

The negative evidence seems to me strong. On 30th of May Governor Bradstreet, to whom the letter was despatched on the night of the 28th May, giving notice of the attack on Bloody Point, wrote a letter from Boston to Jacob Leisler, then at the head of the government of New York, explaining the recall of the military force of Massachusetts Bay while on its way to Albany to join the army designed for the conquest of Canada. He says this was done to protect the eastern inhabitants from the Indians, who had already destroyed Casco, and made assaults on Wells and Kittery. He makes no mention of the destruction of Bloody Point, of which he had been informed the day before.* This makes it quite certain that contradiction followed upon the heels of Vaughan's letter.

Judge Sewall of Boston kept a diary in which most considerable matters of public concern are set down, particularly Indian Massacres. He makes no mention of this affair, although he had often been at Bloody Point. Captain Lawrence Hammond of Charlestown, experienced in military affairs, also kept a diary at that time, in which no mention is made of this massacre. Both these original diaries are in the archives of this Society.

I will cite but one more authority, and that is conclusive, that no such destruction of Fox Point as Mather relates, ever occurred.

At the time of the alleged massacre, Rev. John Pike was living in Portsmouth, only four miles distant from the scene of the massacre, and was keeping a diary of current local events. This diary is now printed in the Proceedings of this Society.† Mr. Pike had only the year before removed from Dover, where he had been minister for many years. He afterward returned and was living there when Mather wrote. Fox Point as well as Bloody Point was in his parish, little more than a mile from his residence, and in plain view. He must have known every inhabitant there. Yet Mr. Pike makes no mention whatever in his diary of this Indian attack, while his habit of recording events warrants the mention of the least injury done by Indians to any of his former parish.

* Documentary History of New York, vol. ii. pp. 259, 260.

† Proceedings Mass. Hist. Soc., Sept. 1875, pp. 121-152.

Mather says he was indebted to Mr. Pike for many passages in his history of that war.* Certainly he did not furnish the facts for the lame account in Mather's narrative, and omit to make record of such an event in his diary.

I may add that I find no mention of this massacre in any of the French histories of that period.

The President communicated two interesting letters written by Mr. Kirkland, afterward President of Harvard College, to Josiah Quincy (who succeeded him in that office) in 1809 and 1810, as follows:—

The name of John Thornton Kirkland is hardly more than a tradition among the younger men of this generation. But there are those left among us who remember him as a venerated President of Harvard, and there are still a few who can recall him as a beloved pastor of what was called the New South Church. The volume of early Proceedings laid on our table at the last meeting gives ample evidence of the interest he took in this Society while a resident member for thirty-two years. But his health gave way in 1828, when he was but fifty-eight years of age; and about the same time that he withdrew from the Presidency of the University, to the deep sorrow of all of us who had not yet quite finished our course there, he seems to have resigned also his membership of this Society;—and thus, according to usage, no Memoir of him is found, or is in the way of being found, in our Collections or Proceedings. There ought to be a volume of his Life and Letters and Sermons, prepared and printed independently, before those who knew him best have all followed him to the grave. Meantime we may well treasure up any productions of his which fall in our way, and place them safely in our pages as materials for the Life which should not be much longer postponed. And here are two autograph letters of his, addressed to his successor in the Presidency of Harvard, Josiah Quincy, who was then a Representative in Congress from Boston, and written while Dr. Kirkland was still the Pastor of the Congregational Church in Summer Street.

The first is dated on the 10th of February, 1809,—the very day after that on which the little volume of Fisher Ames's Works had been entered for copyright in the U. S. District Court of Massachusetts, with Kirkland's celebrated “Notices of the Life and Character of Ames,” as an Introduction,—as fine a piece of prose as had then appeared on this side of

* *Magnalia, Book VII.* page 65.

the Atlantic. The letter relates in part to this production, and gives a most characteristic account of the manner and circumstances under which it had just been given to the press.

The other letter dated April 12, 1810, a few months only before Dr. Kirkland was elected President of the University, has further reference to Ames's Works, and particularly to a review of the volume which had been written by Quincy, and which had been received with great commendation. But it deals largely with the politics of the period. It was the precise period when Elbridge Gerry had just defeated our then President of this Society, Christopher Gore, as Governor of Massachusetts, and when Democrats and Federalists were arrayed against each other in the bitterest animosity. Kirkland and Quincy being Federalists, the correspondence is not a little spicy.

These letters have been kindly sent to me by Miss Eliza Susan Quincy, from her father's papers, and I now propose to pass them over to the Committee for publishing our Proceedings.

The letters, which called forth from some of the older members many anecdotes of President Kirkland, here follow: —

BOSTON, February 10, 1809.

MY DEAR SIR, — I had reason to believe you would take an epistle with my signature favorably. But I have had one primary concern in suspense which has made me delinquent in others not quite so important. I put off a piece of literary execution that you know fell to my lot till I was pressed to the wall, and was obliged to perform two hours' work in one, and that one not worth a half one from the flurry and perturbation of spirits. Perhaps you will see it before your return. The book will be out next Monday or Tuesday (*i.e.* Mr. Ames's Works), and I hope some of them will reach Washington before you are scattered. His friends, you are sensible, think that, by giving his writings to the world, they are hanging up lamps to guide the bewildered traveller into the highway, the Appian Way, of sound politics. But what good will they do those who choose false lights, or who are moles that sunshine cannot make see? The notices of the life are far short of what I wish they were. They are not so good as I could have made them by a more provident use of my time. To paint him, you know, would require the ethereal touches of his rare pencil.

We have held our breath in watchful suspense, respecting the issue of your concussion with the ruffian spirit and principles of those men of honor, with whom you have the privilege of acting in great affairs. I know you have a stout heart to support your strong principles, or I should have wondered that you did so well. You observe the subject

is committed in our General Court. Judge Davis says that unless you had been, or should be actually challenged, the Legislature cannot take any notice of it with good effect. We wish them to say that so long as the most audacious and profligate insist on transferring not only the powers of society, but the liberty of discussion in our national Legislature, into their own hands, and attacking the life of a member when they are offended with his principles, we have no liberty, and that we cannot think of sending one of our best citizens there, to be exposed to the violence or the deadly revenge of an assassin. But the accounts of your standing since that affair give us less concern.*

Our Legislature have deliberated three days upon the report of the two houses, *i. e.* the Senate, for it has not yet gone to the House. There is no doubt it will be passed by a united federal vote. Dana and Hill, and the other tools of the despot, have practised all the quibbling and sophistry that you would expect. The vote for raising the embargo March 4, is not thought a reason for lowering our tone; because it is understood, if the embargo is off, a measure as bad or worse will succeed. Though you seem to deride their pretence of war, yet your friends here are not so much at ease. Randolph's motion for permitting arming in self-defence, is nothing unless it is under the national sanction. They are to take arms, but no commission, and use them on a private account, as a man would defend his person against an unknown assailant. In consistency with our godly character the Court have a religious service or act of humiliation, and pray next Thursday. All the Demo's but three or four concurred.†

Messrs. Gore and Cobb, you see, are unanimously set up. The

* The reference to Mr. Quincy's speeches in Congress, and to the expectation of some of his friends that (his opinions on the subject of duelling being well known) he might become the victim of a ruffianly assault, occurs at once to nearly every one. The seventh and eighth chapters of Mr. Edmund Quincy's admirable life of his father may be consulted for details; and the son has reprinted at length Mr. Quincy's speeches.

On the 1st of February, 1809, the General Court of Massachusetts appointed a committee "to inquire whether any improper attempts have recently been made in the Congress of the United States to restrain the freedom of debate, and whether a free investigation of the measures of Government in the House of Representatives by any Representative of the people of Massachusetts has been made the ground of public and personal insult by other members, with the apparent view to intimidate him in the discharge of his duty, or to force him to the alternative of hazarding his life in defence of his honor, or of losing his influence and usefulness in the public counseils, to the injury of his constituents. And to inquire whether it be expedient that this Legislature should express any opinion, or take any resolution thereon." We do not find that this committee ever reported.—Eds.

† The report of the committee to consider the numerous Memorials from the people, praying for the interposition of Legislative relief under their sufferings from the embargo was made on the 2d of February. The resolves recommended are in the Centinel of the 4th. They were adopted by the Senate on the 10th, and by the House on the 15th.

The resolve for observing February 16th as a day of humiliation and prayer was passed on the 10th. In the account of the religious services (at the Brattle Street Church) the Centinel, a federalist paper, notes that many of the democratic members of the Senate, and the Lieut.-Gov. absented themselves.—Eds.

friends of Mr. Otis fell in, though sorry that the latter was not fixed upon last year. As you know, it is not the best nomination that could be made. General Cobb is too jolly. Mr. Otis is more regular at church than Mr. Gore. Some *good* folks sounded the pulse about calling up Governor Strong. They cannot consent that federalism should be thought safe without alliance with another *ism* which the Trustees of Andover Academy hold so dear, still less under the superintendence of a Governor, who belongs to the *Chapel Church*, avowed Unitarian. But this intrigue, for it was one to a certain degree, died almost in the birth.

Our club, alas, is sick, or, at least, was so.* Politics, you know, made its life, or rather liberty of talking politics,—but since the declension of Mr. A[dams], a clapper is on the mouth, except once or twice when it is opened to have a hot dispute. Judge Dawes cannot sit easy. Mr. Tyng has left. I congratulate you on the escape of your house from great danger.† May you find a benevolent Providence your constant protection.

Yours affectionately,

JOHN T. KIRKLAND.

Excuse my appearance of haste. It is Saturday, 10 o'clock, and to-morrow, of course, I am on duty.

BOSTON, April 12, 1810.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—You have expressed your fears lest some tinkering of ours during your absence should hurt our dear old nurse at Cambridge; and certainly we do, in all important affairs, miss you very much, and it may happen, I confess, that the single circumstance of your being at Quincy, *i.e.*, Boston, or Washington may decide whether in this or that case a great good shall be lost or gained:—for not many of us pay close attention to questions, and few have authority to carry what they wish, without getting leave of certain popular men, who frequently are so, only because they are cold and jealous toward the leaders of our own party. Again, those of us who are good republicans and mean that our heads shall be heads indeed, may have too much faith, and want that they should be prevented from misusing our confidence. I know what I mean by these remarks, though I presume you cannot. In plain words, I think such gentlemen as you can do a great deal to make and keep at least your own friends right. The Junto and you are not at points, and the quids, the true Americans, that is, those who are keen-sighted to the faults, and fearful of the influence of their own party leaders, who are willing that Mr. C[abo]t and Mr. L[owell] &c. should be thought English, they forsooth consider you with much regard.

* The Wednesday Evening Club. See above, Proceedings, January, 1879, p. 18.—EDS.

† Mr. Quincy's house in Pearl street, let as a boarding house, 1808, took fire from the carelessness of one of the inmates. *Marginal note in the handwriting of Miss E. S. Quincy.*

In the case of the College, I think you would have been with us, had you been here. The Act makes the Overseers to consist of fifteen clergymen and fifteen laymen to be elected by the Board for the time being, with the consent of the Corporation; the present clerical incumbents, however, to remain, and no election to be made of that part, till it is below fifteen; the lay fifteen to be chosen by the present Board, after which, in its present form it dies. To this thirty is always added President of Senate, Speaker of the House, and Governor and Council. We meet to-day to determine whether we will accept. The Demo's and perhaps one or two of the Andoverites will object. You may imagine that the *example of change* will do more hurt than the nature of it will do good. Please observe it is in force *when accepted* by the two Boards. It is only such an exercise of legislative power as pertained to the old province government, which is not to abolish a charter, but to alter it with good will of the incorporation. If the *supreme* court lives, we are therefore safe. If it shall be killed or corrupted, we hope to oust the Democrats and restore justice. The only evil arising from this constitution of the Board, is the *esprit de corps* that will be in a body filling their own vacancies. But what can you do or make in this world that has not a bad as well as good side, unless it be perhaps matrimony?*

I condole with you upon the loss of our Gubernatorial election. Ah me! The news must have weighed something upon your spirits at first, though by this time I suppose it is digested, and Washington looks *as pleasant to you as ever*. Do you taste our comforts under this disappointment? We say "when fear or distress does not choose a Governor, envy will;—that is, when the exigencies and perils of the times do not favor the federal party, they will be a minority. Behold the proof and exemplification of this truth. When the occasion gave an opening, and the catastrophe of the measures of our demagogues was too distressing to be borne, we spoke and were heard, we acted and with effect. We have so far carried our points in the main, or have done so much to lessen or to avert evils that threatened to be indefinite and horrible, that we begin to recover our unconcerned state, from which we had been awaked, and to think we shall get along. The doings of our Legislature the two last years, the elections in New England in 1809, the increase of the federal minority in the present Congress, have paralyzed the measures, have arrested the steps of the Gallican, anti-Britannic, Virginian, anti-commercial democratic party. Their views are defeated, and their system substantially renounced. Since we are not absolutely sold to France, we think there is no other evil, and consider all our needless sufferings,—the loss of one hundred millions to enable our government to gratify their spleen against

* Material changes in the composition of the Board of Overseers of the College were made by the Act of March, 1810; which act was repealed in 1812, but revived, with some alterations, two years afterward. See Quincy's "History of Harvard University," vol. ii. pp. 294-296, 300-304. The various Acts and the action of the College authorities incident thereto, are brought together in Appendix No. XV. to Mr. Peirce's History of the University.—Eds.

England and the Federalists, to keep the minds of their partizans in a ruffian state toward Great Britain, and to prevent France from *declaring* war as well as *making* it, — we consider all these causeless and cruel wrongs and sufferings inflicted by our Rulers as nothing, since we can yet go to sea somewhere, and do not see ourselves *taking side* entirely with Napoleon. Do I fear, says the Federalist, that our administration will now dare to make an alliance with France, or a war with Great Britain, or will continue their restrictive system? No, not I; the non-intercourse will certainly be repealed or die. The Administration will not attempt to repeat their outrageous measures. They find we are not to be made the quiet and harmless victims of their party passions, French politics and anti-novanglian feelings; and they will in future bear their faculties with more meekness. Although Mr. Gore is lost by 1,500 or 2,000 votes, they know that but for their relaxation and forbearance in their policy it would not have happened. They know that when the party that brought him in, the party of five-sixths of the mind, the wealth, the character of the State, have a like occasion for choosing a Governor as last year, they will choose him in spite of the mob. They are sensible that though we Federalists are worsted, we are not subdued nor disarmed. Let them have their own Governor: — give the hungry Demo's the loaves and fishes of the State, so long as they are afraid to do all the mischief they would. It would be indeed delightful and beneficial to have such a chief magistrate as Mr. Gore; but it cannot be expected, nor is it essential. In ordinary times we can get along very well with Gerry and Gray, and Holder Slocum, William Widgery, and Walter McFarlane; and in extraordinary times, when they do great mischief, or we need good counsels, we shall probably as we have done, make a successful counteraction and even secure the helm." Such is the tenor of our thoughts and observations, and it helps to account for our being defeated this year. The solution of the loss of the election is principally the relief accruing to the country from the substitution of the non-intercourse for the embargo, and the conviction in the Federalists themselves, that the restrictive system of Jefferson was or would be abandoned by the Cabinet. In the regions of the shadow of death in New Hampshire, and indeed elsewhere, in many of the dark corners of our State, especially such as Charlestown, Dorchester, Roxbury, the disavowal of the arrangement with Erskine by the "faithless, perfidious, proud, accursed, d——d inf——l British Government" contributed to deprive us of votes.

You have heard how all readers, and not less than any, the partial friends of Mr. Ames were delighted with the review. It was all they could have wished, and more than they felt authorized to expect from any one. Mr. C. admits that the reviewer has done his subject most noble justice. I have one question to ask in the name of Mrs. Ames and Mr. Cabot. Are you willing the review should be printed at the expense of the former in a pamphlet? If you are, will you revise it at all, or will you authorize Mr. C. and me to make what we may think a correction or a useful alteration, should any such occur to us in a few instances? I was to have asked you this question before. If

convenient, I should like an immediate answer; if not, will wait till you arrive.*

You also know, I suppose, that your famous speech on the Resolutions, which was mentioned by Mr. Otis and others, with great respect, in our debates on *our* Resolutions, and which has been printed in one newspaper only in this town,—that this speech expressed such thoughts in such language as Mr. Jackson, the insulter of our Government, approved, and that he said your country ought to give you a statue of gold for that speech. O! thou old Tory, thou advocate of those who put thy fellow-countrymen into a prison-ship and slew thy nation's young men, last war!†

To return to the election;—Mr. Adams and his son, T. B., were forward for Gerry and Gray.

You have observed and known the loss of Mr. J. Jackson. A great loss. So true, so upright, so amiable a spirit cannot take its flight without leaving a melancholy charm.‡

The club salute you. My best remembrances to Mrs. Quincy. I have seen her children two or three times;—well and happy. It is no common good fortune, or as I prefer to feel and say, and you to hear, kind providence, which permits a member of Congress, and his lady to be on their public duty, and yet permits their family and wee things to be under as good care, and in as safe a situation as can be desired. I was at Mr. Whitney's (Quincy) day before yesterday. Josiah was out of the way that I did not see him, but well. We put my charge, John Henry Gray, with Mr. W. With great respect and love,

Yours, dear Sir,

J. T. KIRKLAND.

The Committee on publishing the Proceedings, to whom the Council had referred a bundle of papers relating to the loyalty of Edward Bacon of Barnstable, submitted the following Report which was accepted, and the vote recommended by the Committee adopted:—

The Committee for publishing the Proceedings, to whom was referred a bundle of papers found by Mr. Deane in a large mass of mis-

* Mr. Quincy's review of Fisher Ames's Works is in the successive numbers of the Anthology for November and December, 1809, and January and February, 1810. Mr. Cabot was Mr. Ames's literary executor, and the "Works," for which he wrote the preface, were published under his supervision (See Lodge's Life of Cabot, p. 670). We have not been able to find a separate edition of Mr. Quincy's review. — EDS.

† The speech on the resolutions approving the conduct of the Executive in reference to Mr. Francis J. Jackson, Minister from Great Britain, delivered December 28, 1809. It was published in the Centinel for 3d, and 7th of February, 1810. Mr. Edmund Quincy says (*Speeches of Josiah Quincy*, p. 159) that Mr. Jackson had an edition of this speech printed to take home with him as the best defence of his conduct in America. — EDS.

‡ Mr. Jonathan Jackson, an eminent merchant, Treasurer of Harvard College from 1807, died 5 March, 1810. For an account of him and his family see Parsons's *Memoir of Theophilus Parsons*, pp. 173–176. — EDS.

cellaneous papers sent to the Society after the death of the Rev. Dr. Freeman, beg leave to report:—

They find that these papers relate to petitions, supported by affidavits, against the right of Edward Bacon of Barnstable to a seat in the General Court of Massachusetts in 1778–79; the said Bacon being considered by the petitioners a disloyal person. The facts in the case are all to be found in the printed Journals of the House of Representatives, where (*Journal of Session beginning 26 May, 1779,*) the resolve for the expulsion of Mr. Bacon is printed *in extenso*. The Committee find, therefore, that there is nothing in these papers that need be published in the Society's Proceedings.

These papers are the original petitions with autograph signatures; the sworn affidavits used, without doubt, at the hearing before the House, 1 June, 1779; the rough draft of Mr. Bacon's speech in reply; and his petition for a reconsideration of the votes passed. At least one of the papers has the written attestation of the Clerk of the House; and there is so much probability that they all (with the exception of the draft of Mr. Bacon's speech), either are or should be the property of the Commonwealth, that the Committee recommend the following vote:—

Voted, That the papers relating to Edward Bacon's case, found by Mr. Deane, be given to the proper officer at the State House; and that the Librarian be requested to take an acknowledgment for the same.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE DEXTER.
CHARLES C. SMITH.
SAMUEL A. GREEN.

The following vote, recommended by the Council, was adopted:—*Voted*, That the stated meetings of the Society for July and August be omitted; but that the President and Secretary be permitted to call a special meeting at any time during these months if they deem it advisable.

Mr. JUSTIN WINSOR showed some manuscript maps, recently brought to light in the College Library at Cambridge.

I. “A Sketch of the Field of Battle, with the disposition of the troops, in the beginning of the engagement of the 9th of July, 1755, on the Monongahela, 7 miles from Fort du Quesne.” This is seemingly an original plan of Braddock's field, 15 × 11 inches, drawn with a pen, and corrected with different ink by another hand. The scale from near the head of the British column to a point some distance up the river, to the east of the fording place, is 500 yards to the inch. A perpendicular line just west of the head of the British column is marked, “From this line the plan is only conjectural,” and the scale is very much reduced thence westward to the fort.

The plan corresponds in general with one of the series, illustrating that campaign, issued not long afterward in England, and reproduced in *fac-simile* in Sargent's History of the Brad-dock Expedition ; but there are variations in the details.

II. A plan, 11 × 14 inches, manuscript, with colors and shading for the hill slopes, marked, "A Sketch of the BATTLE of GERMAN Tⁿ; 4th October, 1777, where the REBELS were repulsed." Scale, 450 yards to the inch. On the reverse is stamped, in black ink, "Montresor," the name of a British engineer, by whom it was probably made.

III. A plan of a star fort with ten angles, showing quarters, barracks, wells, magazines, &c., within, and occupying the larger part of an island, whose shore is thickly lined with bowlders. Scale, 200 feet to an inch. Among the marginal descriptions are references to the "soldiers' barracks," and "casemates for 200 men," "the Provision magazine will contain 2,500 barrels, and the Powder magazine will contain 2,600 casks, besides the small ones, 200 each." An index line pointing nearly north is marked, "To y^e Flgg . . . 7405." Perhaps it indicates the distance to the flagstaff on the Bat-tery, New York. Another line, running nearly west is marked, "From Cannedy's island, 7800." Another, running west of south, "To Red Hook." A note of area, whether of fort or island is not said, is given "48½ of an acre, or 14,658 square feet." The shape of the island resembles that of Gov-ernor's island in New York harbor, and the plan may repre-sent fortifications at some time at that place. Such is the opinion of Mr. J. Carson Brevoort, to whom a rough copy of the sketch has been submitted.

IV. A rough drawing of a fort with six bastions, appar-ently on a point of land, with indications of a "temporary battery *en barbette a fleur d'eau*," on two sides of the fort.

V. A small, rough drawing of a fort, with a road bisecting it, and two small outlying works.

The President read the following extract from a letter he had received this morning from our Honorary Member, Mr. Grigsby:—

The new volume of Early Proceedings (1791–1835) is a charming book. All your meetings are now familiar to me,—or will be when the next volume appears. The portraits and other illustrations greatly enhance its interest and value. I have now a knowledge not only of your early members, but of the abodes of the Society from the begin-ning. The "Crescent" is no longer a mansion in the skies, but a palpable structure of brick and mortar. Formerly, there was some-

thing aërial about it; and its position reminded me of the region in which Sir Edward Coke put away the slumbering powers of the law until they were wanted for use; as, for instance, *in gremio legis, in nubibus*, &c. Every page of the work displays the judgment of those to whom we owe such an addition to your history. It is quite a revelation.

The President read also a letter from Miss Eleanor Derby, dated New York, 25 March, with a postscript dated Boston, 8 June, stating that Miss Harriet B. Derby, at whose request the letter was written, had died in the interval. Miss Derby called attention to the label on the picture of the Rev. John Clarke, D.D., in the Society's gallery, as erroneously stating that the picture was given to the Society by Henry Sargent. These ladies desired that this error might be corrected, so that the label should read that the picture was the gift of their brother, John Clarke Derby. It was deposited by Mrs. Derby, in December, 1834, on condition that it should be surrendered, if called for by John Clarke Barrell, or her son John Clarke Derby.*

The Cabinet-keeper was instructed to make the desired correction on the label.

The President was requested to extend an invitation to visit the Library and rooms of the Society to the members of the American Library Association, of which our associate, Mr. Winsor, is the presiding officer, and which was to hold a conference in Boston at the end of June.

Mr. DEANE called attention to a second article by the Rev. Dr. Watson in relation to the hanging of the signal lanterns in the steeple of Christ Church, Boston, to warn the departure of the British troops on the night of the 18th April, 1775, published in the Boston Daily Advertiser of 2d May last. Some additional particulars regarding Captain Pulling are given in this article, and the evidence in favor of Dr. Watson's claim to the honor of displaying the signal for him is restated.†

A serial number of the Proceedings containing the record of the meetings from January to April, 1879, inclusive, was placed upon the table at this meeting.

* See Early Proceedings, vol. i. p. 482.—Eds.

† See Proceedings for November, 1876, pp. 163-177.—Eds.